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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00919 091245Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /041 W
----------050220 091252Z /46
R 082107Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 453
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
ICA WASHDC 162
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 919

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, SOPN, CA
SUBJECT: TWO MONTREAL DAILIES RESUME PUBLICATION

REF: 77 MONTREAL 1978

1. LA PRESSE AND MONTREAL MATIN, LARGE CIRCULATION FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILIES CLOSED SINCE OCT. 6, 1977 BY A MANAGEMENT-EMPLOYEES DISPUTE, RESUMED PUBLICATION MAY 8.

2. THE CLOSURES ORIGINATED OVER A DEMAND BY LA PRESSE EMPLOYEES FOR CONSULTATION RIGHTS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT HEADS. THAT CAUSE ESCALATED WITHIN HOURS INTO NEW CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH EMPHASIS ON WAGES. AT THE JOINTLY-OWNED MONTREAL MATIN, WORKERS REFUSED TO CROSS THE LA PRESSE PICKET LINES. BOTH SIDES DUG IN FOR WHAT WAS POPULARLY PREDICTED TO BE A TWO-MONTHS STANDOFF. BUT BY CHRISTMAS STAR REPORTERS WERE ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE.

3. FINAL SETTLEMENT TERMS, ACCORDING TO SPOKESMEN ON BOTH SIDES, GIVE EMPLOYEES RIGHT TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR VACANT DEPARTMENT HEAD JOBS AND TO BE CONSULTED BY MANAGEMENT ON
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LATTER'S FINAL SELECTIONS. THE JOURNALISTS ALSO HAVE A NEW FOUR-YEAR CONTRACT, RAISING VETERANS FROM DOLS 360 WEEKLY TO DOLS 500 WEEKLY BY THE END OF 1980. THE SETTLEMENT ALSO INCLUDED A FOUR-DAY, 32-HOUR WORK WEEK.

4. COMMENT: IN POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY TROUBLED QUEBEC, ALL QUARRELING SIDES HAVE LAMANTED ABSENCE OF THESE MAJOR

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COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLES, WITH POLITICAL LEADERS TURNING MORE
THAN EVER TO ELECTRONIC MEDIA FOR CONTACT WITH NON-PROFESSIONAL
CLASS. ALTHOUGH BOTH PAPERS PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED FEDERALIST
CAUSE ALTHOUGH WITH NATIONALIST OVERTONES AND OPPOSED
SEPARATISM, THEIR EARLY EDITORIALS AND ARTICLE SELECTIONS WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY BE STUDIED BY ALL CONCERNED PARTIES FOR
EVIDENCE OF RECONSIDERATION OVER THE LONG WINTER.
HARPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONTRE00919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780196-0278
Format: TEL
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780583/aaaacsta.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f8dfb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MONTREAL 1978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2762833
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWO MONTREAL DAILIES RESUME PUBLICATION
TAGS: ELAB, SOPN, CA, LA PRESSE, MONTREAL MATIN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f8dfb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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